

Minutes from Wednesday, March 14, 2012 Commission on  
Disability Meeting  
Worcester Public Library – Banx Room  
4:30PM

**Attendance:**

**Members:** Rachel Shannon Brown, Herbert Cremer, Charles Hianah, Steven Stolberg, Lynne Towler

**Associate Member:** Pauline Piso

**Members of the Public:** Michael Kennedy, Jackie Norton, Scott Ricker

**Staff:** Dawn E. Clark

**Call to Order**

The Chairperson called the meeting to order and there was around the room introductions. Associate member Pauline Piso was welcomed to the Commission.

**Presentation: Emergency Management Report**

Commissioner Steve Stolberg presented the report. Members of the Task Force included Elder representatives and representatives of the difference categories of disability along with staff of Red Cross and City of Worcester Departments. The Task Force met for a ten month period with its main focus of determining ADA accessible shelters for emergencies in the city under a grant to the Dept of Public Health. The report recommended an annual review. The report referred to the Emergency Registry as being in place. Mr. Cremer was concerned that elders and people with disabilities were not going to be safe in an emergency because no one would come to the house and take them to the shelter. The website does state that the registry is for planning purposes and in not intended for the city to come and get those people who have registered. The

Commission voted to request the statement related to the purpose of the registry be stronger. The Commission was reminded that people must self-prepare for 72 hours. The Task Force has disbanded, having completed its task; however, the Commission expressed concerns about transportation and other emergency preparedness items. The Commission is interested in continuing exploring ways the City can be more accessible when it comes to emergency preparedness. The Commission requested staff speak with the Director of Public Health about how to address transportation concerns, etc.

### **Acceptance of January and February Minutes**

The January minutes were amended. Mr. Stolberg moved that the minutes be approved. Ms. Towler seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with a three to one vote.

The February minutes were amended. Ms. Towler moved that the minutes be approved. Charles Hianah seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with a three to one vote.

### **Communications and Reports: Chairperson and Staff**

**Correspondence:** Chairperson Brown reported the she received correspondence from Scott Ricker regarding architectural access barriers at 701 Plantation Street and 666 Lincoln Street (non-municipal properties).

**Change of the April Meeting Date:** The April Commission meeting, instead of on the second Wednesday of the month, will be rescheduled to April 18 at 4:30 p.m. One Commissioner asked why the change. Ms. Brown said that she was unable to be present at the original date and that the Vice-Chair is not available. Given these details, along with staff input, it was agreed that the meeting should be postponed one week to April 18.

**Invitation to the Mayor:** The Mayor has been invited to the April meeting. He will be alerted to the change of date.

**Intake Report:** The Commission received the intake report. A question was asked why three dates appeared on one intake. The response was that there were at least three distinct days of work related to this case. The Chair asked whether members would consider having intake reports on a quarterly basis; however, one Commission member requested that intake reports be made at each Commission meeting.

**Red Cab Update:** Staff is still working on this request.

**Commission contact List:** Based on feedback from the City Solicitor, Commission members are advised that they should exchange contact information with each other if they are willing to do so, rather than creating a formal list.

**DCU Center:** Mr. Ricker had filed a complaint with City Council Traffic and Parking Committee and with the Office on Disabilities. The complaint was sent on to the City Manager's Office. Mr. Ricker asked if this was the Foster Street issue as well. Staff responded yes.

**Temporary Event Accessibility Policy:** This document and request for review was forwarded to the City Manager's Office.

**Federal Disability Inspector:** Staff checked with AAB. They were not aware of a requirement such as this. The members of the public who raised this issue in February have not been in touch with staff. Mike Kennedy asked if they were thinking of the ADA Coordinator. They indicated that this was not the position to which they were referring.

**HP Parking Enforcement:** As of this meeting there has been no reply for DPW&P on this issue. Staff did clarify that, after talking with the Parking Administrator, it appears that about 5% of HP violation tickets are written by the police. The Commission requested that a similar letter that was sent to DPW&P requesting support in enforcing handicapped parking violations be sent to the Police Department.

**Commission's Status under City Charter:** Staff will refer this issue to the Law Department and the new Human Rights & Disabilities Director.

**Human Rights & Disabilities Director:** Chairperson Brown announced that Ms. Jayna Turchek has been appointed by the City Manager to the position of Human Rights & Disabilities Director and began on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ms. Brown referred the Commission to the announcement in the meeting's packet.

### **Old Business and Updates**

**John Street Church:** The Chairperson has email the District City Councilor whose area cover where the sidewalk is. There has not been a response as of this meeting.

**AAB Updates:** The Commission reviewed the January-February 2012 updates provided by Michael Kennedy from the Center for Living & Working, Inc. AAB reports are sent to Commission on Disability, the local housing inspector and the independent living center covering the municipality involved.

**Bullying Update: 1.** Chairperson Brown has communicated with the Chairperson of the Human Rights Commission.

**2.** The Chairperson requested that Commission members brainstorm specific tasks and goals for the Bullying project, to be discussed at the April meeting.

**3.** Mr. Cremer brought to the Commission's attention the new documentary "Bullying." This film may be classified as "R". Therefore, the documentary's intended younger audience would not be eligible to see the film. The Chairperson thanked Mr. Cremer for bringing this film and initiative to the attention of the Commission.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn E. Clark  
Secretary Pro-Tem

COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES  
Wednesday, March 14, 2012  
4:30 PM – 6:30 PM  
Worcester Public Library - Banx Room

MEETING AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions**
- 2. Presentation: Emergency Management Taskforce Report**
- 3. Acceptance of January and February Minutes**
- 4. Communications and Reports: Chairperson and Staff**
  - a. Correspondence and Intake Update
  - b. Red Cab Update
  - c. Commission Contact List
  - d. DCU Center
  - e. Temporary Event Accessibility Policy
  - f. Federal Disability Inspector
  - g. HP Parking Enforcement
  - h. Commission's Status under City Charter
- 5. Old Business and Updates**
  - a. John Street Church
  - b. AAB Updates
  - c. Bullying Project Update
- 6. Member Update and New Business**
- 7. Announcements and Adjournment**
- 8. Items for Future Discussion:**
  - a. Library Accessibility
  - b. Service Animal/Companion Animal Ordinance

- c. Goals for Fiscal Year 2013/Construction Project Wish List
- d. Friends of the Commission
- e. Transportation and TPAG
- f. Transition Plan Update